

**Michigan Commission of Agriculture Meeting  
Michigan Department of Agriculture  
Office of Racing Commissioner  
37650 Professional Center Drive, Suite 105A  
Livonia, Michigan**

**MEETING MINUTES  
June 13, 2002**

**PRESENT:**

Douglas Darling, Chair, Commission of Agriculture  
Nora Viau, Vice-Chair, Commission of Agriculture  
Bill Pridgeon, Secretary, Commission of Agriculture  
James Maitland, Commission of Agriculture  
Jordan Tatter, Commission of Agriculture  
Dan Wyant, Director, Michigan Department of Agriculture

**OTHERS PRESENT** *(All or part of the meeting):*

Michigan Department of Agriculture Staff  
Alex Draper, Michigan Association of Deer and Elk Breeders  
Dr. Theodore A. Ferris, Michigan State University  
Terry Gill, Mill Creek Volunteer Monitor Project  
Dr. Eric Hanson, Michigan State University  
Ken Keeley, Michigan Association of Deer and Elk Breeders  
Tonia Koppenaal, Michigan Farm Bureau  
Preston Mann, Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders & Hunting Preserves  
Dan Marsh, Professional Deer Producers  
Dr. Larry Olsen, Michigan State University  
Jim Trinklein, Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders & Hunting Preserves

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Darling called the meeting of the Commission of Agriculture to order at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 13, 2002. Secretary Pridgeon called the roll with Director Wyant and all Commissioners present.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER VIAU MOVED APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 13, 2002 AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 10, 2002 MEETING MINUTES**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 10, 2002 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED.**

**MOTION TO AMEND: COMMISSIONER DARLING MOVED TO AMEND THE MINUTES, PAGE 4, FIRST PARAGRAPH, TO READ "THE**

MICHIGAN INNOVATION CENTER PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD AT THE MICHIGAN FARM BUREAU," AND SECOND PARAGRAPH TO READ "COMMISSIONER DARLING ADDRESSED THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION TOUR PRIOR TO THE GROUP LEAVING FOR THE EAST COAST." SECONDED.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Commission of Agriculture is scheduled for July 16, 2002 at the Michigan State University Kellogg Center and Conference Center, Room 101, South Harrison Road, East Lansing, Michigan. (Held in conjunction with Michigan State University Ag Expo '02)

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMISSIONERS' PER DIEM AND/OR TRAVEL**

MOTION: COMMISSIONER VIAU MOVED APPROVAL OF CHAIR DARLING'S PER DIEM AND/OR TRAVEL AS SUBMITTED:

- APRIL 12, 2002, MICHIGAN INNOVATION CENTER MEETING, LANSING (PER DIEM AND TRAVEL)
- APRIL 18, 2002, USDA TB TOUR, LOGAN TOWNSHIP (PER DIEM AND TRAVEL)
- MAY 31, 2002, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ANN VENEMAN NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT, DETROIT (TRAVEL)

SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **WELCOME AND UPDATE BY STATE RACING COMMISSIONER ANNETTE BACOLA**

State Racing Commissioner Annette Bacola welcomed the Commission of Agriculture to The Office of Racing Commissioner. She distributed a report entitled, "*The Michigan Horse Racing Industry within the United States and Canada, A Comparative Report, October 2002,*" prepared by The Office of Racing Commissioner. Commissioner Bacola discussed Michigan's horse racing industry. She also addressed the priorities and activities of The Office of Racing Commissioner, and the many options and directions facing the industry. There is an increasing interest in the sport and a genuine interest on the part of the Michigan legislature. National and international projections look favorable for the industry overall. Commissioner Bacola said that a study would be done this year to determine how many people in agriculture earn their livelihood from horse racing. She believes that the study will show that over 30,000 people involved in agriculture are affected in some way or another by the horse racing industry.

Commissioner Maitland noted the importance of the horse racing industry to agriculture and agrees that it would be advantageous to put a dollar value and publicize what horse racing brings to agriculture.

Director Wyant recognized Commissioner Bacola's leadership in Michigan's horse racing industry and commended her efforts in meeting its challenges.

### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

**Commissioner James Maitland** thanked Commissioner Bacola for hosting today's meeting and for the update she provided on Michigan's horse racing industry. He reported that Northern Michigan has had a wet and cool spring for field crop planting. The tart cherry industry has reported only a five percent crop. Normally the fruit industry produces at least 120 million pounds of tart cherries in Northwest Michigan, but this year production will only be around 10 million pounds.

**Commissioner Bill Pridgeon** thanked Commissioner Bacola for hosting the meeting today. He reported that cold weather conditions have affected the crop in central Michigan. Crops have been planted, but are behind schedule. There is, however, an abundant supply of poultry and pork, resulting in lower prices. Beef prices continue to be stable.

**Commissioner Nora Viau** thanked Commissioner Bacola for inviting the Commission to Livonia. She reported that the Upper Peninsula has been cold and wet causing poor, delayed crops. She noted that farmers are only planting about one-third of a field because of the wet conditions.

**Commissioner Jordan Tatter** thanked Commissioner Bacola for inviting the Commission to hold its meeting at The Office of Racing Commissioner. He also welcomed Bob Tarrant, Commission Liaison, to MDA.

Commissioner Tatter reported that repeated frosts and freezes since the last Commission meeting have dramatically altered fruit crop prospects in Southwest Michigan. Grapes and tart cherries have been the most seriously damaged, and blueberries the least. There have been at least two and, in some cases, three or more years of losses by leading fruit growers and processors in Southwest Michigan. He referred to the May issue of the Federal Reserve Bank's Agricultural Letter and its reference to financial outlooks in the Upper Midwest.

Commissioner Tatter participated in the following agriculture-related activities:

- A Senate Budget Committee hearing regarding MDA's budget.
- The annual meeting of the International Association of Refrigerated Warehouses and the World Food Logistic Organization in San Antonio, Texas. Food safety issues were preeminent subject matter.
- A Michigan Chamber of Commerce board meeting.
- A crop loss inspection tour and media event with Congressman Fred Upton.
- A meeting of the Berrien County Cooperative Extension Service Council.
- The first meeting of the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Advisory Board Stakeholders.
- A guest of MSU President McPherson at an event welcoming Vice President Cheney to the University that preceded the Vice President's presentation to graduating students, guests and staff.
- The Food Marketing Institute meeting held in Chicago.

- A meeting of grape growers held at the MSU Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center to discuss cost reduction methods for freeze damaged vineyards.
- A meeting held at MBI International to discuss the Agriculture Innovation Center concept.
- A meeting with Bob Bender, Bovine TB Eradication Coordinator, and others to discuss Deer Management Unit 452's hot spots of the disease.
- A Berrien County Extension Service meeting to discuss food safety issues resulting from radioactive material contamination.
- The Michigan Food Processors Association annual meeting held in Gaylord at which Commissioner Tatter led a roundtable discussion on the future of food processing in Michigan.

Commissioner Tatter stated that after an easy winter and spring, with no problems until April 23, Michigan's fruit industry, from grower to processor, including service and supply providers, has fallen on hard times. The economic problems ahead, prior to year-end, will make those of the last two years seem minor. He noted that MDA would be called upon by many individuals and constituent groups to provide assistance.

He also noted that the Cherry Industry Administrative Board has requested that the Michigan Agricultural Statistics Service halt the tart cherry crop estimate for this year. This is because of economic reasons and because there will be no regulations of the Michigan crop under the Federal Marketing Order.

Director Wyant asked about the grape crop loss estimates.

Commissioner Tatter replied that there is a loss of about 12,000 acres of juice grapes. A decision will be made on whether or not to harvest concord grapes. Wine grapes were almost unaffected. Southwest Michigan could have about 10 million pounds of cherries, which would be down from 30 million pounds last year. West central Michigan had 80 million pounds last year, and could have about 10 million pounds that may not be harvested. Northwest Michigan had 190 million pounds last year compared to only 15 million pounds this year, which also means there would be no harvest.

**Commissioner Douglas Darling** reported that the spring in Southeast Michigan has been cold and wet. Normally soybeans are out of the ground, which is not the case this year. Crops were planted late, and are of poor quality due to the weather conditions.

Commissioner Darling participated in a USDA TB Tour with Dr. John Clifford of USDA, Dr. Joan Arnoldi and Keith Creagh of MDA, and Keith Charters, Chair of the Natural Resources Commission. They toured the AuSable River looking at its potential as a natural boundary for TB surveillance zones. A question-and-answer session was held with the area producers.

Commissioner Darling also attended a media event arranged for Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman's announcement that the State of Michigan would be receiving \$1.2 million for homeland security. He also attended the Michigan Innovation Center Meeting to discuss ideas on how to attract agriculture industries and products to Michigan.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Dan Wyant**

**Bob Tarrant:** Bob Tarrant was introduced as the new Commission Liaison and MDA's new Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Tarrant replaces Dave Charney, who left the department to take a position with the federal government. Mr. Tarrant also administers the Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board, and serves as the department's hearing officer.

**Early Out:** There will be 75 employees, or 11 percent of the department's total work force, retiring from MDA as part of the Early Out program. Approximately 7,700 state employees took advantage of the Early Out program out of a total work force of about 62,000, or 12 percent. The savings will come from a replacement of one-in-four positions. MDA will most likely be able to replace 19 of the 75 positions.

**Budget:** Revenue estimates for the current fiscal year and projections for the next fiscal year are below the budget recommendations proposed in January by the Governor. Negotiations continue in the legislature on ways to address the shortfall, either through a raise in the cigarette tax or additional program budget cuts.

**Disaster Assistance:** Twenty-six Michigan counties were affected by a late spring frost. The Governor has requested federal disaster assistance. Current legislation states that any disaster requested by the Governor prior to October 2002 would allow a producer to qualify for a zero-interest loan. However, there is only \$43 million remaining in that state program and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. MDA will lead the coordination efforts at the state level to pursue federal assistance. Director Wyant also has had discussions with Senator McManus and will meet with Joanne DeVuyst of the USDA Rural Development Office to discuss possible discretionary dollars available for rural development activities for Michigan food processors.

**PA 344, Agricultural Marketing and Bargaining Board:** Discussions continue on the future of PA 344 and the issues of accreditation and interpretation of the law. A work group may be identified from industry and state government to review the Act.

Director Wyant distributed and reviewed his monthly activities since the last Commission meeting.

## **UPDATE ON ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES: Dr. Joan Arnoldi, State Veterinarian**

**Dr. Joan Arnoldi, State Veterinarian and director of the Animal Industry Division,** introduced Dr. Larry Granger of the Animal Industry Division to discuss bovine tuberculosis, and Dr. Doug Hoort of the Animal Industry Division to discuss Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

**Bovine Tuberculosis:** Dr. Granger distributed and reviewed information about the "*Establishment of High Risk Area for Bovine Tuberculosis*" in Oscoda County. The county of Oscoda will remain "high risk" until testing has been conducted for 36 months and no new infected herds are found. Dr. Granger reported that there are two additional bovine tuberculosis infected herds to report. Both are beef herds, one located in Oscoda County and the other in Alpena County.

**Chronic Wasting Disease:** Dr. Hoort distributed and reviewed the Draft “*Contingency Plan for Surveillance/Management of Chronic Wasting Disease of Free-Ranging and Captive Cervids prepared by the Wildlife Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Animal Industry Division of the Michigan Department of Agriculture.*”

Dr. Hoort emphasized that this is a working document.

Chair Darling asked if the industry had reviewed the document.

Dr. Arnoldi replied that Dr. Hoort has met with industry to discuss certain issues surrounding CWD; however, the industry has not reviewed the document before today. The draft was given to the Natural Resources Commission at its monthly meeting held last week. The draft needed to be shared with the Commission of Agriculture prior to distribution to the industry. Dr. Arnoldi added that there is concern by the industry about the surveillance plan being mandatory. Industry would prefer that it be a voluntary program. Dr. Arnoldi is concerned about the credibility of a voluntary program. However, discussions will continue with the industry. She noted that other states are using a mandatory program.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Alex Draper of the Michigan Deer and Elk Farmers** indicated that he had received a copy of the draft plan today and had a chance to briefly review. He believes it is a good starting point and appreciates the cooperation between MDA and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). He said that members have been voluntarily submitting cervid heads for testing, but there is a cost involved. Mr. Draper said that the industry is concerned about the issue of mandatory testing; however, they are willing to work through the issue with MDA. The National Deer Farmers Association will hold its annual meeting next month in Green Bay, Wisconsin where all state captive and privately owned cervid organizations will be represented. CWD will be a major topic of discussion.

**Ken Keeley of Barbeau, Michigan** also received and reviewed the document today, and appreciates what has been done by both organizations. There are some provisions within the document with which he does not agree; however, he appreciated the offer to work together to resolve some of those issues.

**Director Wyant** asked for reaction to the position of some conservation groups to mandate double fencing; to stop the import of all deer, elk and exotic game species; to initiate a moratorium on the registration of all new privately owned cervid farms, and on the expansion of existing facilities.

Mr. Draper responded that there is no scientific evidence that supports the position that double fencing would prevent the spread of CWD since no one knows how the disease is communicated. Double fencing would be a very expensive undertaking for producers. The industry is also against any move to stop importation or initiating a moratorium on existing facilities.

**Dan Marsh of Professional Deer Producers** expressed concern about the proposal to require double fencing. He noted that he will be attending the National Deer Farmers Association meeting in Wisconsin. He believes that there are laws in place at the state and national level to deal with CWD. He does not believe that hysteria is necessary; however, improvements do need to be made in the area of communication. His

organization is concerned about the importation issue, and any decisions that may affect private property. Mr. Marsh said he is available to work with the department on the issue. He stated the importance of people understanding the difference between "captive" and "privately owned" operations. He added that his organization would like to encourage more industry coordination.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

No public comment received.

**PRESENTATION OF THE FINAL GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (GAAMP): Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division**

**Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division** introduced Dr. Larry Olsen, Task Force Chair for the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMP) Task Force for Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control. Mr. Whitman explained that this is an annual review process of Right-To-Farm practices.

**Dr. Larry Olsen, Task Force Chair for the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control** presented and reviewed the proposed GAAMP initially presented in draft form to the Commission at its April 2002 meeting. Since that meeting a public meeting was held on May 2, 2002 to receive public comment. The GAAMP before the Commission today includes the changes resulting from task force review and the public comment received.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED APPROVAL OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR PESTICIDE UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL AS PRESENTED. SECONDED.**

**MOTION TO AMEND: COMMISSIONER DARLING MOVED TO ADD THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH TO THE GAAMP FOR PESTICIDE UTILIZATION AND PEST CONTROL INTRODUCTION:**

**"A FARM OR FARM OPERATION THAT CONFORMS TO THESE AND OTHER APPLICABLE GAAMPS ADOPTED UNDER THE MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM ACT ACCORDING TO THE MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM LAW (ACT 93 OF 1981, AS AMENDED) SHALL NOT BE FOUND TO BE A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NUISANCE. THIS PROTECTION ALSO COVERS FARM OPERATIONS THAT EXISTED BEFORE A CHANGE IN THE LAND USE OR OCCUPANCY OF LAND WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FARMLAND, IF BEFORE THAT CHANGE, THE FARM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A NUISANCE. LIKEWISE, THIS CONDITIONAL PROTECTION APPLIES TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES (PA 93 SECTION 3(3):**

**A) A CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR SIZE;**

- B) TEMPORARY CESSATION OR INTERRUPTION OF FARMING;
- C) ENROLLMENT IN GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS;
- D) ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY;
- E) A CHANGE IN TYPE OF FARM PRODUCT BEING PRODUCED.

**SECONDED. MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Dr. Eric Hanson, Task Force Chair of the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Cranberry Production** presented and reviewed the proposed GAAMP initially presented in draft form to the Commission at its April 2002 meeting. Since that meeting a public meeting was held on May 2, 2002. The GAAMP before the Commission today includes the changes resulting from task force review and the public comment received.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED APPROVAL OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR CRANBERRY PRODUCTION AS PRESENTED. SECONDED.**

**DISCUSSION** Commissioner Darling asked if the changes in regulatory requirements would be at a cost to the producer.

Dr. Hanson replied that the purpose is to have the producer contact the Land and Water Management Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to determine if any permits are required.

Commissioner Pridgeon referred to the change on page 2, line 2, "should consult with the Land and Water Management Division of MDEQ...." He asked why the word "should" is used rather than the word "shall" as used in other GAAMPs.

Vicki Pontz-Teachout, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division, explained that the producer is advised to contact the MDEQ but is not required to do so.

Commissioner Tatter asked if the Michigan Cranberry Council was in support of the proposed change on page 2.

Dr. Olsen indicated that Mike DeGrandchamp of the Michigan Cranberry Council, and member of the GAAMP for Cranberry Production task force, was not present at the task force meeting when this change was approved. The Council had expressed concern.

Director Wyant explained that the word "shall" is used to be consistent with the legislation's wording. The word "should" is used when it is not required under the law, but is recommended by the department.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Dr. Ted Ferris, Task Force Representative of the Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for The Care of Farm Animals** presented and reviewed the proposed GAAMP initially presented in draft form to the Commission at its April 2002 meeting. Since that meeting a public meeting was held on May 2, 2002. The GAAMP before the Commission today includes the changes resulting from task force review and the public comment received.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER PRIDGEON MOVED APPROVAL OF THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE CARE OF FARM ANIMALS AS PRESENTED. SECONDED.**

**MOTION TO AMEND: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO CHANGE PAGE 48, THE INSERTED SENTENCE TO READ "SHALL" INSTEAD OF THE WORD "MUST," AND TO ADD THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH TO THE GAAMP INTRODUCTION:**

**A FARM OR FARM OPERATION THAT CONFORMS TO THESE AND OTHER APPLICABLE GAAMPS ADOPTED UNDER THE MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM ACT ACCORDING TO THE MICHIGAN RIGHT TO FARM LAW (ACT 93 OF 1981, AS AMENDED) SHALL NOT BE FOUND TO BE A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE NUISANCE. THIS PROTECTION ALSO COVERS FARM OPERATIONS THAT EXISTED BEFORE A CHANGE IN THE LAND USE OR OCCUPANCY OF LAND WITHIN ONE MILE OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE FARMLAND, IF BEFORE THAT CHANGE, THE FARM WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A NUISANCE. LIKewise, THIS CONDITIONAL PROTECTION APPLIES TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES (PA 93 SECTION 3(3):**

- A) A CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OR SIZE;**
- B) TEMPORARY CESSATION OR INTERRUPTION OF FARMING;**
- C) ENROLLMENT IN GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS;**
- D) ADOPTION OF NEW TECHNOLOGY;**
- E) A CHANGE IN TYPE OF FARM PRODUCT BEING PRODUCED.**

**SECONDED. MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SITE SELECTION AND ODOR CONTROL: Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division**

**Wayne Whitman of the Environmental Stewardship Division** presented the draft Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Odor Control and recommended that the GAAMP be made available for public comment. A public meeting is scheduled for June 25, 2002 at 10:00 a.m., in the Lake Superior Room of the Michigan Library and Historical Center, 717 West Allegan Street, Lansing, Michigan.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED TO MAKE THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR SITE SELECTION AND ODOR CONTROL AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. SECONDED.**

**MOTION TO AMEND: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO CHANGE TABLE 2 UNDER THE NEW OR EXPANDING OPERATIONS COLUMN TO READ 0-5 WITHIN ½ MILE.**

**SECONDED. MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF THE CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION FOR REGULATION 812, STATE PURSE SUPPLEMENTS FOR HARNESS HORSE RACING AT FAIRS AND PARI-MUTUEL TRACKS: Barbara Hensinger, Director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division**

Barbara Hensinger, Director of the Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division, presented and recommended Commission approval of the Certificate of Adoption for Regulation 812, State Purse Supplements for Harness Horse Racing at Fairs and Pari-Mutuel Tracks.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER VIAU MOVED APPROVAL FOR THE COMMISSION CHAIR TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION FOR REGULATION 812, STATE PURSE SUPPLEMENTS FOR HARNESS HORSE RACING AT FAIRS AND PARI-MUTUEL TRACKS. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**UPDATE ON IMMIGRATION AND FARM LABOR ISSUES IN MICHIGAN: Tonia Koppenaar of the Michigan Farm Bureau**

Tonia Koppenaar of the Michigan Farm Bureau distributed and reviewed a memorandum to the Commission of Agriculture from Jim Miller, Legislative Counsel for the Michigan Farm Bureau, regarding agriculture labor in Michigan.

Ms. Koppenaar presented the information contained in the memorandum on behalf of Mr. Miller. She explained that the assessment of the availability of agriculture labor for Michigan is based on contact with growers through regional representatives in the field, grower calls to Farm Bureau staff members, and its regulatory compliance affiliate. As of today, growers are reporting an adequate supply of labor. Reports from Migrant Service Centers, staffed by the Michigan Department of Career Development, also are reporting an adequate supply of labor and, in some areas, an oversupply.

The Michigan Farm Bureau is working with the American Farm Bureau to monitor federal immigration legislation and to continually advocate agriculture's concerns about adequate labor supplies.

**UPDATE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICE FOR AGRICULTURE IRRIGATION: Vicki Pontz-Teachout, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division**

**Vicki Pontz-Teachout, director of the Environmental Stewardship Division,** reported that at the Commission's direction MDA has met with the industry, MSU, MDEQ and the Governor's Office to discuss options for addressing agriculture water use, specifically, irrigation.

Ms. Teachout is recommending that the Commission Chair send the letter as presented to Dr. Ted L. Loudon, Professor and Extension Engineer at MSU, to request that he chair a task force to recommend a GAAMP for agricultural irrigation. A proposed membership list will also be submitted to Dr. Loudon.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER TATTER MOVED APPROVAL FOR THE COMMISSION CHAIR TO SIGN A LETTER TO DR. TED L. LOUDON, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, ASKING THAT HE CHAIR A TASK FORCE TO RECOMMEND GENERALLY ACCEPTED AGRICULTURE AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DISCUSSION OF THE MILL CREEK VOLUNTEER MONITOR PROJECT: Terry Gill, Project Manager, Mill Creek Volunteer Monitor Project**

**Terry Gill, Project Manager of the Mill Creek Volunteer Monitor Project,** distributed and reviewed information about the Mill Creek Volunteer Monitoring Project. The Mill Creek Volunteer Monitoring Project is part of the MDEQ Michigan Volunteer Monitoring Program. One goal is to increase the number of stream and river miles assessed throughout the state by developing partnerships with citizen volunteer monitoring groups. The drainage project has been very controversial and after 10 years of legal problems a compromise was reached between the South Branch of Mill Creek Intercounty Drainage Board and local officials. The compromise consisted of dredging only 1.75 miles of what was originally to be a 17-mile dredging project and using the river restoration techniques of George Palmiter on the remaining 15.25 miles. Ms. Gill discussed the effects of dredging versus the effects of river restoration on Mill Creek.

Ms. Gill provided pictures for review of the drainage project area. She also distributed a "*Volunteer Stream Survey Form*," and information about "*Stream Insects and Crustaceans*."

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MICHIGAN 4-H CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: Commissioner Darling**

**MOTION: CHAIR DARLING MOVED APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE MICHIGAN 4-H CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION FOR REGULATION 636, PESTICIDE APPLICATORS:**

**Director Wyant** presented and recommended Commission approval of the Certificate of Adoption for Regulation 636, Pesticide Applicators.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED APPROVAL FOR THE COMMISSION CHAIR TO SIGN THE CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION FOR REGULATION 636, PESTICIDE APPLICATORS. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**APPROVAL OF COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE RESOLUTIONS:**

**Director Wyant** presented and recommended Commission approval of the resolutions for those MDA employees who will be retiring on July 1, 2002.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED APPROVAL OF THE COMMISSION OF AGRICULTURE RESOLUTIONS HONORING MDA EMPLOYEES WHO WILL BE RETIRING JULY 1, 2002. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Jim Trinklein, President of the Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders and Hunting Preserves** distributed and read a letter to the Michigan Commission of Agriculture dated June 13, 2002 regarding Michigan hunting preserves. Mr. Trinklein and the Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders and Hunting Preserves are requesting Commission approval to adopt a resolution that recognizes the Michigan Game Bird Hunting Preserve Industry as an agricultural operation and practice.

Director Wyant said that MDA supports recognition of this industry as a growing part of Michigan agriculture, and one that adds value to agriculture operations.

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO RECOGNIZE THE MICHIGAN GAME BIRD HUNTING PRESERVE INDUSTRY AS AN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY AND A VALUE ADDED FARM OPPORTUNITY. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Tonia Koppenaal of the Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB)** expressed appreciation for MDA's efforts in the disaster declaration affected by the late frost. She stated that MFB has been working with the captive cervid industry and appreciated the industry's proactive stance on CWD and its willingness to participate in voluntary surveillance efforts. The contingency plan distributed this morning by MDA will be reviewed and a meeting will be held with Dr. Joan Arnoldi to discuss its recommendations.

Ms. Koppenaal commented on the successful meeting held in West Branch, Logan Township, with industry and MDA staff. MFB appreciated the support from the department and USDA in scheduling the bovine TB meeting. Producers from the area have expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to discuss their concerns. Ms.

Koppenaar indicated that Dr. Arnoldi announced at the meeting that the department would include consideration of the AuSable River as a natural boundary in the split state status application. Ms. Koppenaar also noted that MFB is in preliminary discussions with MDA on forest nuisance issues and protection under the Right-To-Farm Act.

**ADJOURN:**

**MOTION: COMMISSIONER MAITLAND MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:10 P.M. SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**ATTACHMENTS:**

*The following documentation is on file in the Commission of Agriculture office and is available upon request by contacting the Commission Secretary, Michigan Commission of Agriculture, Post Office Box 30017, Lansing, Michigan 48909, (517) 373-1104.*

Attachment A	Commission of Agriculture April 10, 2002 Meeting Minutes
Attachment B	The Michigan Horse Racing Industry within the United States and Canada, A Comparative Report, October 2002
Attachment C	Director's Reports – May and June 2002
Attachment D	Establishment of High Risk Area for Bovine Tuberculosis
Attachment E	Draft Contingency Plan for Surveillance/Management of Chronic Wasting Disease of Free-Ranging and Captive Cervids
Attachment F	Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Pesticide Utilization and Pest Control
Attachment G	Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Cranberry Production
Attachment H	Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for The Care of Farm Animals
Attachment I	Draft Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Site Selection and Odor Control
Attachment J	Certificate of Adoption for Regulation 812, State Purse Supplements for Harness Horse Racing at Fairs and Pari-Mutuel Tracks
Attachment K	Memorandum from Jim Miller, Michigan Farm Bureau, regarding Agriculture Labor in Michigan
Attachment L	Letter to Dr. Ted L. Loudon, Michigan State University, regarding Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Agriculture Irrigation
Attachment M	Mill Creek Volunteer Monitoring Project First Annual Report October 2000; Second Annual Report April 2002; Volunteer Stream Survey Form and Stream Insects and Crustaceans
Attachment N	Commission of Agriculture Resolution Commending the Michigan 4-H Centennial Celebration
Attachment O	Certificate of Adoption for Regulation 636, Pesticide Applicators
Attachment P	Commission of Agriculture Resolutions for MDA Retirees
Attachment Q	Letter from Jim Trinklein, President of the Michigan Association of Gamebird Breeders and Hunting Preserves and Resolution
Attachment R	Legislative Report – June 2002